

REMARKS

I. Status of the claims

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9 and 11 are pending and under consideration. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that all prior rejections have been withdrawn. Office Action, page 2.

II. Provisional Double Patenting Rejection

The Office provisionally rejects claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, and 11 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-11 of copending Application No. 11/023,319. Office Action, page 3.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Application 11/023,319 is awaiting a Notice of Abandonment because Applicants did not respond to the Notice to File Missing Parts mailed by the Office of Initial Patent Examination on April 7, 2005. The period for responding expired on November 7, 2005. Because application no. 11/023,319 is no longer pending, Applicants ask the Office to withdraw the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection in this application and pass it to issue.

CONCLUSION

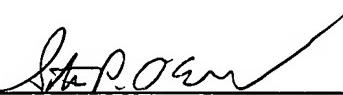
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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